

Mission

*We provide leadership and support to help all
Vermont students achieve excellence*

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Vision

*The State Board of Education shall sustain a
vision of high skills, creative thinking, and love of
knowledge and learning for every student by setting
education policy that ensures student achievement
in a safe and healthy learning environment.*

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From the 2004 Strategic Plan*

Approved June 30, 2004

Goals

- I. Support high-quality, innovative instruction to
improve student achievement
- II. Provide and promote high-quality educational
leadership
- III. Promote safe and positive learning environments
- IV. Build department capacity to best support external
needs
- V. Practice and promote effective use
of all resources

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*See [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/
mainboard.html#strategic](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html#strategic)

State Board of Education 2008-2009 Meeting Dates

August 25-26, 2008

September 16, 2008

October 21, 2008

November 18, 2008

December 16, 2008

January 20, 2009

February 17, 2009

March 17, 2009

April 14 (or 21), 2009

May 19, 2009

June 16, 2009



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Vermont Department of Education

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August 2008

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

WELCOME

*Tom James, Chair Essex
Ruth Stokes, Vice Chair Williston
William Corrow Williamstown
Kathy Larsen Wilmington
Alex Melville Woodstock
Fayneese Miller..... South Burlington
Chris Robbins Bolton
Tess Savage Starksboro
Susan Schill Belvidere
Brian Vachon Middlesex*

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*William Talbott, Acting Commissioner
William Romond., Deputy Commissioner for
Transformation*

WELCOME TO OUR MEETING

The Vermont State Board of Education welcomes you to our meeting and hopes this information gives you an understanding of how we conduct our meetings and how you can participate.

Each month on the third Tuesday and occasionally more frequently, the board meets in various locations around the state, preferably in schools. When the legislature is in session, we usually meet in the Montpelier area.

The board feels it is important to spend time discussing educational issues so that we are better prepared to make decisions.

The types of agenda items are:

Updates – These items include introductions, announcements, board member and commissioner updates and reports. They are usually brief and do not involve discussion, with the exception of questions board members may have of the commissioner after he completes his report.

Public to be Heard – As part of its effort to increase communications with its constituents, the Board dedicates a portion of its monthly agenda to hearing from constituents concerning current and evolving policy issues that are within the purview of the Board and are not on that month's agenda. The Board invites individuals or a representative from organizations to speak during the "Public to be Heard" time slot at each Board meeting. Anyone interested in speaking to the Board during this portion of the meeting should contact the chair, vice chair, or the

commissioner in advance of the meeting. Presentations should be concise and may be accompanied by brief written summaries of oral comments.

Discussion Items – Next to these agenda items you will see "Discuss." These items usually include some introductory remarks by the commissioner or the presenter. The board will have prepared for the discussion by reviewing materials prior to the meeting. The format allows for participation by both the board and the public. If a number of people in the audience wish to participate, the chair may structure the time, rather than the usual more flexible format. Following introductory remarks, the chair will ask board members if they have any questions or comments. After the board has had opportunity for discussion, the chair will ask if any members of the public wish to speak. During these discussions, various aspects of the agenda item might be addressed. The commissioner and department staff may also participate in the discussion.

Action Items – Next to these items you will see "Vote." A discussion will be conducted in the same manner as with discussion items on the agenda. The public will have an opportunity to participate.

A motion will be made and seconded by members of the board. Once a motion is being acted upon, the public will not give further input. Following discussion, the board will vote unless the item is tabled.

Consent Agenda – Consent agenda items are items that normally need only minimal discussion. Some of the reasons that discussion might not be necessary are:

1. The item was discussed at a previous meeting and the board felt it would be ready for a vote at the next meeting.
2. The item relates to the normal business of the department in complying with law and state board rules, such as capital construction and independent school approval.

The board approves the consent agenda with comment, which allows board members to make remarks or ask questions about any item on the consent agenda prior to the vote. If a board member wishes to have in-depth discussion prior to the vote, they may request to have the item removed from the consent agenda. Items removed from the consent agenda may be voted individually.

Agenda Setting – At the end of every meeting, the board takes time to discuss what will be on future agendas. Agenda items include actions necessary to comply with state and federal law, as well as work being done by the board and the department. The current month's meeting agenda and packet materials may be accessed electronically at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html#packet>

Executive Session – Occasionally the board goes into executive session. Sometimes people who have a connection to the item being discussed are invited into executive session with the board. The board will always state the purpose for the executive session in their vote to enter executive session. No action can be taken while in executive session, but the board may vote after coming out of executive session.